

September 2007

Daniels County FSA

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County Committee Members

Ron Fladager – Chair
Alan Danelson – Vice-Chair
Rick Marriage – Member
Monica Haaland – Minority Advisor

FSA Office Personnel

Smokey Benson, CED ----- ext. 102
Lisa Tvedt, PT ----- ext. 112
JoAnn Lekvold, PT ----- ext. 113
Bonnie Modine, PT ----- ext. 114
Molly Crohn, PT ----- ext. 116
Jaylein Nickels, Loan Officer - ext. 110
Gerry Farver, Field ----- ext. 111

Dates to Remember:

August 4 - September 28 – DCP late filed fee of \$100 will be assessed

September 10 – Signup begins for LCP and LIP

September 24-27 – Tribal Outreach Forum, Gran Tree, Bozeman

September 28 – Final date for late filed 2007 DCP contracts

October 1 – CRP payments begin being issued

October 2 & 3 – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium, Dillon

October 13 – Deadline for removal of hay from CRP emergency haying and managed haying

October 15 – CDP Signup Begins

November 2 – COC ballots will be mailed to eligible voters

November 12 – Removal of livestock for CRP managed grazing

December 1 – NAP application closing date for Honey

December 3 – Final date to return voted COC ballots to FSA office



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Disaster Program Signup Begins

Signup for the *Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)* and the *Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)* began **September 10, 2007**.

Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 or producers located in counties contiguous to those counties are eligible. Also producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration made by President Bush may also be eligible for LCP, LIP and DDAP (Dairy).

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007 due to natural disaster. This can include producers who suffered losses resulting from blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007. Livestock producers may elect to receive compensation for calendar year 2007 grazing season losses that are attributable to wildfire natural disaster occurring during the applicable period as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Eligible livestock include: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, deer or swine.

Producers will not be penalized if they reduced the average number of livestock they owned for grazing during the production year for which assistance is being provided.

The payment rate for each livestock category will be 61 percent of the USDA determined national payment rate.

LIP compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 that resulted from natural disasters.

Eligible livestock include: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, or deer.

The payment rate will be 26 percent of the market value of the livestock on the day before the date of death, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. These rates will be available at the FSA office during the sign-up period.

Producers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in LCP or LIP benefits. Eligible producers must choose only one year for which they wish to receive benefits in either of the programs.

Crop Disaster Program Signup Begins

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) will **begin October 15, 2007**. CDP does not require a disaster declaration.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price.

Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits.

COC Election

Ballots for the County Committee (COC) election will be mailed to eligible voters in LAA #2 (Peerless Area) by November 2. The final date to submit ballots to the FSA County Office is December 3, 2007.

Please vote and have your voice be heard for USDA programs to fit the needs of the local community.

CRP Managed Haying and Grazing

Please report acres hayed or grazed to the FSA County Office as soon as possible so CRP payments are not delayed.

Bales must be removed by October 13.

Cattle must be removed by November 12.

You must report when bales and cattle are removed from the CRP.

No Final 2006 Counter-cyclical Payments for Wheat, Barley and Oats

FSA will not issue final 2006-crop counter-cyclical payments to farmers enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) for wheat, barley and oats. The decision was made due to the fact that prices for these commodities have averaged well above levels that trigger counter-cyclical payments.

Counter-cyclical payments are made at the end of an eligible crop's 12-month marketing year. The 2002 Farm Bill provides for the availability of two partial counter-cyclical payments. USDA did not issue a first or second partial payment for the 2006 crop of wheat, barley or oats due to strong markets.

The counter-cyclical payment rate is the amount by which the "target price" of each commodity, specified by the 2002 Farm Bill, exceeds its effective price. The effective price equals the direct payment rate plus the higher of either: 1) the national average market price received by producers during the marketing year; or 2) the national average loan rate for the commodity.

For each commodity, the counter-cyclical payment for each crop year equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage times the farm's counter-cyclical payment yield times the counter-cyclical payment rate.

Rural Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations.

Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Who may borrow?

To qualify for a loan, an applicant must:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be between 10 and 20 years old;
- Live in a town of less than 10,000 residents;
- Be unable to obtain a loan from other sources; and
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work, as outlined above.

What is the maximum loan amount?

The maximum amount for FSA youth loans is \$5,000.

New Digital Maps

A packet of new digital maps for each farm was sent to each owner and operator on August 1, 2007. Please review the line work on each map, discuss it with your operator and the operator can notify our office if you think the line work is correct or needs to be changed. It is important that we hear from you so we can update our records. If we do not hear from you before November 1, 2007, we will assume that you agree with the line work and your records will be changed to match the new acres on the new maps. Any changes after November 1, 2007 will require a paid for measurement service.

Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium

The Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium will be held October 2 & 3, 2007 at the Beaverhead Golf Course, Highway 41 North in Dillon. Early registration is \$50 due by September 20. The Symposium is sponsored by the State FAC, MT Agri-Women, MT Farm Bureau Women, WIFE and the MT Cattlewomen. The symposium provides a platform for women involved in the promotion of Montana's agriculture to learn of issues affecting rural agricultural communities, promote leadership development, and further support women's leadership roles.

An agenda including the registration form is available at the FSA office or by logging into the Montana FSA homepage at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

New Features on the Web

USDA provides their customers an opportunity to do business electronically 24 hours a day seven days a week over the Internet.

With a Level 2 access, USDA customers may receive their 1099-G form, review any collections or debts they may have with USDA and also review an itemized listing of their USDA payments.

Receiving a Level 2 account is a simple process. By entering your name, address and answering a few questions, customers may have access to the above mentioned items.

In addition to receiving payment information, USDA customers may also send forms from the comfort of their home and sign up for programs without visiting a USDA service Center.

Complete step-by-step instructions for obtaining a Level 2 access, retrieving payment information, submitting forms and signing up for certain programs is available by logging on to the Montana FSA Internet site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

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2008 NAP Important Dates

Crop	Application Closing Date
Perennial Forage, Mint, Mixed Forage, All Types	March 15, 2008
Annual Crops – Both Fall & Spring Seeded Crops: Winter Peas & Rye; Garlic; Wheat Forage; Millet; Buckwheat; Sorghum Forages	March 15, 2008
Perennial Fruit (Apples, Cherries, etc.)	March 15, 2008
Honey	December 1, 2007

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact Myron E. Benson, 131B Hwy 5 East, 406-487-5366 ext. 102 or myron.benson@mt.usda.gov.